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# Message Text

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AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211789

FOLLOWING REPET KUALA LUMPUR 7059 CTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK
CANBERRA GENEVA JAKARTA MANILA SINGAPORE TOKYO
WELLINGTON AUG 17

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 9059

GENEVA FOR USMTN

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEAN, MY
SUBJ: MALAYSIAN REACTIONS TO US/ASEAN MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 204796 (B) KUALA LUMPUR 9023

SUMMARY. INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF MALAYSIAN
DEL CONFIRM POSITIVE REACTION REPORTED IN REFTELS. MOST
IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT FROM MALAYSIAN POINT OF VIEW WAS,
INDEED, WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS A SHIFT IN US POLICY TOWARD
A MORE POSITIVE STANCE REGARDING THE COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS.
THERE WAS MILD UNHAPPINESS WITH POLITICAL, "ALMOST
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COLD WAR" TONE OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY SINGAPOREAN AND
PHILIPPINE DELS. THERE WERE DIFFERING OPINIONS ON THE
TIMING, LEVEL AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING.
EMBASSY BELIEVES THE GOM WILL BE MEASURING US
SUPPORT FOR ASEAN AND THE SUCCESS OF THE WASINGTON
MEETING ON THE WAY WE FOLLOW UP OUR
STATEMENTS ON THE COMMON FUND. END SUMMARY.

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1. OUR INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF MALAYSIA
ASEAN DELEGATION REVEAL CONTINUED SENSE OF CAUTIOUS
SATISFACTION DESCRIBED IN REFTELS. DELEGATION WAS
PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE HIGH LEVEL OF THE US DEL
AND THE GREAT AMOUNT OF ATTENTION ASEAN DELS RECEIVED.
ONE MEMBER, WHO HAD ALSO ATTENDED MANILA MEETING, SAID
HE FELT THE WASINGTON MEETING WAS MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL,
"BETTER PREPARED, BETTER ORGANIZED, MORE PARTICIPATION,
AND MUCH WIDER EXCHANGE."

2. AS PREDICTED IN REF A, ALL OF OUR CONTACTS SEEM TO
BE MOST IMPRESSED BY WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE A NEW
AND MORE POSITIVE US POLICY WITH RESPECT TO A COMMON FUND.
THEY COMPARE THE WORDING OF THE JOINT PRESS STATEMENT
AND REMARKS BY SECRETARY VANCE AND OTHER HIGH USG
OFFICIALS WITH NON-COMMITTAL EARLIER US STATEMENTS, AND
NOTE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN TONE AND SUBSTANCE.

3. ONE SOURCE TOLD US THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE
UNHAPPINESS WITHIN THE MALAYSIAN DEL WITH THE POLITICAL,
ALMOST "COLD WAR" TONE OF THE STATEMENTS BY FOREIGN
MINISTER'S RAJARATNAM AND ROMULO. THE GOM BELEIVES VERY
STRONGLY PUBLIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE US AND ASEAN
MUST BE KEPT WITHIN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE. WE HAVE
BEEN TOLD THAT THE MALAYSIANS AND INDONESIANS
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PRIVATELY REMONSTRATED WITHT THE OTHERS DURING THE MEETING
AND OBTAINED AN AGREEMENT TO SOFTEN THE POLITICAL
ASPECT OF THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

4. IN CONTRAST TO THE SENTIMENTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER
RITHAUDEEN, REPORTED IN REF B, FAVORING ANOTHER MEETING AT
THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL NEXT YEAR, KASSIM HUSSEIN, MFA
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ASEAN, EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE
CAUTION. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THE TIMING, LOCATION
AND LEVEL OF THE NEXT MEETING SHOULD NOT BE
DECIDED UNTIL "THERE IS SOMETHING FURTHER TO TALK
ABOUT." HE SAID THE GOM WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE
FOLLOW-UP TO THE WASHINGTON MEETING, ESPECIALLY ON THE
COMMON FUND.

5. COMMENT: SO FAR, IT APPEARS THAT THE US-ASEAN
MEETING HAS BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN THE GOM EXPECTED.
WHILE THE MALAYSIANS WELCOME THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS, THE MOORE VISIT, AND THE ROBINSON
MISSION THE ADDITION OF THE PERCEIVED MOVEMENT BY THE USG
ON THE COMMON FUND ISSUE IS CLEARLY THE SIGNIFICANT RESULT
OF THE TALKS FOR THE GOM. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY WILL

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BE PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO OUR ACTIONS ON THIS ISSUE
OVE THE BALANCE OF THIS YEAR AND, PERHAPS BASING THEIR
ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NEXT MEETING ON HOW WELL THEY BELIEVE
WE HAVE "PERFORMED"ON IT . MILLER. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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# Message Attributes

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**To:** CINCPAC RANGOON MULTIPLE
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